

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SP-02 L-03 EB-08 HA-05
FDRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00
COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /100 W
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P 261348Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2572

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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STATE PASS AID AA/AFR FOR MS GOLER BUTCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID BC

SUBJ: BOTSWANA PROGRAM GRANT

1. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF PRIVATE MEETING JUNE 26 WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA TO NOTIFY HIM THAT \$9 MILLION U.S. PROGRAM GRANT HAS BEEN APPROVED. I BRIEFLY OUTLINED PURPOSE AND TERMS OF THE GRANT, NOTING IT WAS UNUSUAL RECOGNITION OF EXTRAORDINARY PROBLEMS FACED BY GOB AS RESULT OF TURBULENCE IN THE REGION.

2. PRESIDENT KHAMA SMILED BROADLY AND SAID HE WANTED TO THANK THE USG "VERY MUCH FOR THIS WELCOME NEWS". HE SAID HE KNEW OF THE "DISAPPOINTMENTS AND FRUSTRATIONS WE HAVE SHARED" OVER THE PAST YEAR IN GETTING HELP NEEDED TO MEET THE "EXTRAORDINARY REFUGEE AND SECURITY RELATED BURDENS BORNE BY BOTSWANA". (HIS LANGUAGE RECALLED HIS REMARKS AT GENEVA ON MAY 22 ON ACCEPTANCE OF NANSEN MEDAL IN WHICH HE THANKED "THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR VERY GENEROUS ASSISTANCE" WITHOUT WHICH GOB "WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD FOR THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES PRESENT IN

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OUR COUNTRY"; THE FIGURE IS PRESENTLY 12,000. KHAMA SPEECH CONTINUED, "I CANNOT SAY THE SAME ABOUT OUR SECURITY WHICH HAS BECOME INEXTRICABLY BOUND UP WITH THE SECURITY OF THE REFUGEES". I REPLIED THAT THIS U.S. GRANT COULD BE TAKEN AS RECOGNITION OF OUR APPRECIATION OF BOTSWANA'S EXTRAORDINARY BURDENS REFERRED TO IN HIS GENEVA SPEECH. AGAIN VISIBLY PLEASED, KHAMA REPLIED "THANKS VERY MUCH; THIS IS GREATLY

APPRECIATED".

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S WORDS OF APPRECIATION SHOULD PROPERLY BE CONVEYED TO ALL THOSE INCLUDING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS WHO MADE POSSIBLE THIS LONG-AWAITED EVIDENCE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR A COUNTRY WHICH FINDS ITSELF, AS KHAMA SAID IN HIS GENEVA SPEECH, "ALMOST COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY OPPRESSIVE WHITE MINORITY REGIMES" BUT WHOSE HUMANE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES REMAIN CLOSELY PARALLEL TO OUR OWN. SPECIAL THANKS SHOULD GO TO AA/AFR MS BUTCHER FOR AGREEING TO SIMPLIFY TERMS OF AGREEMENT IN WAYS THAT MORE PROPERLY REFLECT OUR CONCORDANT POLICIES.

4. REPORT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL ON V.P. MASIRE'S COMMENTS AT ACTUAL SIGNING CEREMONY JUNE 26.
NORLAND

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